

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05775 221201Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 /020 W
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R 221032Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, OCON
SUBJECT: REGIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 138638

1. THE PROPOSAL TO HOLD THE ANNUAL REGIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE IN ATHENS MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST BOTH POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS, THE FORMER MORE IMPORTANT BY FAR.

2. SINCE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE, THE EMBASSY HAS AVOIDED MAJOR USG-SPONSORED CONFERENCES IN ATHENS AS WE SOUGHT TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE FROM THE ALL-TIME LOW THEY HAD REACHED IN 1974 AND THE CLIMATE OF VIRULENT AND WIDESPREAD ANTI-AMERICANISM. THE ARRIVAL IN ATHENS OF 80 USG PARTICIPANTS FOR THE NARCOTICS CONFERENCE WOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE AND RATHER DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM PAST POLICY. (AND ATHENS IS THE KIND OF CITY WHERE THEIR PRESENCE WOULD BE NOTICED.) ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN US-GREEK RELATIONS AND A CONTINUING LESSENING OF ANTI-AMERICANISM OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THOUGH WE ARE BY NO MEANS OUT OF THE WOODS IN THIS RESPECT. MOREOVER, NARCOTICS CONTROL IS AN ACTIVITY WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

3. THIS, IF NO OTHER SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE IS AVAILABLE,
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05775 221201Z

WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE ATHENS AS ITS VENUE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE GOG MUST BE CONSULTED IN ADVANCE. IF WASHINGTON DECIDES FINALLY THAT ATHENS SHOULD BE THE SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE, WE WILL HAVE TO CONSULT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT THE MATTER. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF, AT THE SAME TIME, WE COULD ASSURE THE MINISTRY THAT DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS ON

NARCOTICS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

4. ADMINISTRATIVELY, WE BELIEVE WE CAN ARRANGE BOTH AN APPROPRIATE MEETING PLACE FOR THE CONFERENCE AND LODGING. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATHENS PER DIEM IS NOT RPT NOT ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE ATHENS HILTON OR SOME OTHER SIMILAR FIRST CLASS HOTEL WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES; MODERATELY PRICED HOTELS DO NOT OFFER CONFERENCE FACILITIES. THE EMBASSY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR A GROUP OF THIS SIZE AND AUTHORIZATION WOULD THEREFORE BE NECESSARY FOR BUS RENTAL. THE EMBASSY'S FACILITY FOR DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE SUBJECTS IS AVAILABLE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 25 PERSONS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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